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Extensions of country programmes in the Asia and the Pacific Region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extensions for Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

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One year extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Reason and Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other Issues
Bhutan	2002-2006	2007	The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Executive Committee agencies in Bhutan recognize the value of preparing a joint country programme for the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle. All UNDG Executive Committee agencies in Bhutan have extended their country programmes by one year in order to align them with the government national planning cycle.	The preparation of the tenth plan for Bhutan has been delayed by one year. It is likely to begin in 2008. The Government has expressed its wish that the next UNDAF be postponed to 2008, in order to better align it with the national planning cycle.	The current programme of assistance provides an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects being implemented in Bhutan.
Nepal	2002-2006	2007	United Nations agency programmes have been harmonized. Both UNDP and UNICEF have extended their country programmes for one year, through 2007.	The emerging socio-economic development in-country warrants a one-year extension of the current country programme.	Heightened security resulted in difficulties in delivering and monitoring services to communities outside Kathmandu valley. All United Nations agencies are adjusting their country programmes to reflect this reality. UNFPA is taking a leadership role in this process. In this environment, UNFPA intends to consolidate its geographical presence and focus on delivering integrated programmes, including reproductive health, gender, and programmes to combat gender-based violence, to communities most affected by the security situation

One year extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

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Sri Lanka	2002-2006	2007	UNDP, UNICEF and WFP are also proposing one-year country programme extensions.	Due to the tsunami disaster that struck Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004, the common country assessment and UNDAF plans were postponed by one year, with much of the attention in 2005 on tsunami relief and recovery efforts. A new government was elected in November 2005. Plans are now under way to resume the peace talks. A new national development plan for Sri Lanka is also being formulated.	The current programme of assistance provides an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects being implemented in Sri Lanka.